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PATENT

App. Dkt. No. WEAT/0032

**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete second response to the Final Office Action dated October 29, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 29, 2005. Applicant filed a first response to the Final Office Action dated October 29, 2004 on December 27, 2004. The Examiner responded to the first response with an Advisory Action dated January 21, 2005. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that the first response was not entered because the proposed amendments raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

In the specification, paragraphs [0004] and [0020] have been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claims 1-15 and 20-23 are allowed, claims 16-19 and 28-30 are rejected and claims 24-27 are objected to. Claims 1-15 and 20-30 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 1, 24, and 28-30 have been amended and claims 16-19 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner states: "It is unclear to the examiner as to what applicant is referring with the phrase 'without substantially reducing admission of the drill bit' in claim 29." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Admission of the drill bit refers to the force exerted on the drill bit, i.e. from the weight of a mud motor and the bit, which keeps the drill bit into contact with the ground formation that is being drilled. Reducing admission refers to reducing the force holding the drill bit into contact with the ground formation being drilled, i.e. by pulling up on a drillstring. This definition is clearly implicit with the following usage in paragraph [0003] the Application:

"Another drawback of known tools is that the admission of the drill bit will have to be reduced to allow rotation of the bent sub. The consequence of this may be that the drill bit loses its grip in the ground

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formation, so that instead of completing its rotation, the bent sub will return to its initial position."

#### Claim Rejections - Walker

Claims 16-19 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Walker* (US 5,535,835). Claims 16-19 have been canceled. Claims 28-30 have been amended to depend from claim 24 which is allowable if redrafted in independent form. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### Claim Rejections - Dorel

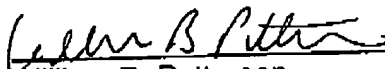
Claims 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Dorel* (US 6,158,529). Claim 19 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### Claim Objections

Claims 24-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 24 has been redrafted in independent form. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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